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Message Text

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63
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 NIC-01 EA-11 IO-12 EB-11 AGR-20 ACDA-19

GAC-01 RSR-01 /172 W
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R 141625 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4356
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5625

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PFOR, IN, XD
SUBJ: ARIKPO VISIT TO INDIA

REF: LAGOS 3258

SUMMARY: DURING THREE- DAY VISIT TO INDIA, NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MET WITH MRS. GANDHI AND SWARAN SINGH, WELCOMED THE INDO- IJKISTAN JOINT OFFER TO PAKISTAN, AND HOPED FOR NIGERIAN- INDIAN COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC FIELDS. END SUMMARY.

1. NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, DR. OKOI ARIKPO, ARRIVED NEW DELHI MAY 3 FROM PEKING AND WAS MET BY FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH. DURING THREE- DAY VISIT TO INDIA ARIKPO PAID COURTESY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER GANDHI, AND HELD OFFICIAL TALKS WITH SWARAN SINGH ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC EXCHANGES. LATTER ALSO GAVE OFFICIAL DINNER FOR ARIKPO.

2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAY 4 AFTER MEETINGS ARIKPO SAID PJ WELCOMED RECENT JOINT INDO- BANGLADESH OFFER TO PAKISTAN AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE SIMLA
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PROCESS. HE DODGED QUESTION ON NIGERIA' S NON- RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH BY STATING NIGERIA HAD AN UNUSUAL CONSTITUTIONAL THEORY OF MAKING A DISTINCTION BETWEEN RECOGNIZING A COUNTRY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. ARIKPO SAID HE HAD TALKS WITH SWARAN SINGH ON OBTAINING INDIAN HELP IN RAISING THE NIGERIAN OIL REFINING CAPACITY AND ESTABLISHING PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS COLLABORATION WITH INDIA IN THE EXPLOITATION OF OIL RESOURCES. ARIKPO SAID HE HAD ALSO DISCUSSED AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS WITH SWARAN SINGH. ARIKPO ENDORSED A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND SAID THAT NIGERIA " WOULD NOT HAVE DONE WHAT PRESIDENT AMIN DID IN UGANDA " IN REGARD
TO THE ASIANS THERE. ON
HIS TRIP TO PEKING, ARIKPO THOUGHT CHINA WAS ANXIOUS TO SEE PEACE IN SOUTH ASIA, AND WAS TAKING A " WORLDWIDE VIEW OF EVENTS" FOLLOWING ADMISSION TO THE UN.

3. THE INDIAN PRESS REPORTED FAVORABLY ON ARIKPO' S VISIT AS THE FOLLOWING HEADLINE SAMPLES INDICATE: " NIGERIA HAILS OFFER TO PAKISTAN," " NIGERIA NOT TO BEHAVE LIKE UGANDA," " CHINA WANTS PEACE IN ASIA," AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, " NIGERIA WELCOMES INDIAN CAPITAL, KNOW- HOW."
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